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July 9, 2003



26874

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXPRESS MAIL

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner For Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

16235 U.S. PTO
10/615974
07/09/03

TRANSMITTAL OF PATENT APPLICATION

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of:

Inventor(s):	Frederick E. Shelton IV, Michael Earl Setser and William Bruce Weisenburgh II
Title:	SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT INCORPORATING A TAPERED FIRING BAR FOR INCREASED FLEXIBILITY AROUND THE ARTICULATION JOINT
Drawings:	10 Sheets
Papers Enclosed:	Specification, 13 Claims and Abstract (Total of 23 Pages); Drawings - 10 Sheets; Cover Sheet; Declaration and Power of Attorney; Certificate of Express Mail; return postcard
Check Enclosed to Cover Total Fee:	\$750.00 \$750.00

LARGE ENTITY

CLAIMS AS FILED						
	No. Filed			No. Extra	Rate	Fee
Basic Fee						750.00
Total Claims	13	-	20		x 18.00	
Independent Claims	3	-	3		x 84.00	
Multiple Claims					280.00	.00
				Total Filing Fee		750.00
				Assignment Recordation		
LARGE ENTITY TOTAL						\$750.00

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees during the pendency of this application or credit any overpayment to Frost Brown Todd LLC, Account No. 06-2226:

Any additional filing fees required by 37 CFR 1.16 and/or 37 CFR 1.492;

Any deficiency in the patent application processing fees as required by 37 CFR 1.17; or


Any deficiency in the issue fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.18.

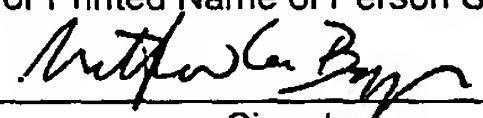
The above authorization does not include permission to charge payment of the entire issue fee to our account upon request of a notice of allowance, but only any deficiency in the issue fee paid by our check subsequent to receipt of a notice of allowance.

A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is enclosed for any of these additional charges or credit.

Respectfully submitted

FROST BROWN TODD LLC

By: 
David E. Franklin
Registration No. 39,194

<p>"Express Mail" Mailing Label Number:</p> <p><u>EV311436355US</u></p> <p>Date of Deposit: <u>July 9, 2003</u></p> <p>I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited in the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 and is addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</p> <p><u>Matthew Burgan</u> Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing</p> <p> Signature</p>
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